

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 IGA-02 L-03 PC-10 USIA-15

IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SR-02 ORM-03 SPM-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /163 W

----- 114835

R 091000Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8468

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMAKO 0301

AFDROUGHT

E O 11652 GDS

SUBJ: USAID/L WROSS GRANT ASSISTANCE SAHEL DROUGHT VICTIMS

REF: A. STATE 243449, B. BAMAKO 3805, C. STATE 002185

1. NOTE-REQUEST DEPARTMENT NOT DIVULGE SOURCE OF THIS MESSAGE IN TALKS WITH LICROSS OR OTHER NON-US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

2. EMBOFF JUST RECENTLY FINISHED TEN-DAY SURVEY VI REGION (JAN 22-JAN 31). TALKED WITH KEY REGIONAL OFFICIALS AND VISITED SIX REFUGEE CAMPS.

3. A. BLANKETS-IN 1973, US DONATED 15,000, FRG 5000 AND UNICEF 10,000. HOWEVER, BOTH VI REGION GOVERNOR AND HIS DROUGHT RELIEF CORRINATOR MAINTAIN THAT VI REGION RECEIVED ONLY ABOUT 5,000 BLANKETS, AND THAT ALL OF THESE WERE DISTRIBUTED. EMBOFF SAW FEW BLANKETS, AND DOUDTS THAT ALL 5000 WERE DISTRIBUTED. BLANKETS SEEN WERE MOTTLED WITH NO IDENTIFICATION MARKINGS (FIT DESCRIPTION UNICEF BLANKETS).

B. TEND TO CONCUR WITH UNICEF REP CHRISTENSEN (PER PARA 3, REF B) THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND BLANKETS ARE STORED IN WAREHOUSES. EMBASSY WILLCONTINUE TO PRESS
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GOM THIS MATTER. RECOMMEND THAT US SUPPLY NO MORE

BLANKETS EITHER BILATERALLY OR THROUGH MULTILATERAL
DONOR ORGANIZATIONS.

3. A. TARPS - ALL 4000 AID/W SUPPLIED TARPS WERE RECEIVED
IN VI REGION AND DISTRIBUTED. MALIANS WERE DISAPPOINTED
SOMEWHAT WITH TARPS. MAIN OBJECTIONS, WAS THIN PLASTIC
TARP WAS UNSUITED FOR LONG TERMS USE. TARPS WERE
APPARENTLY
FROM EMERGENCY AVIATION SURVIVAL KITS.
GREATEST NUMBER TARPS SEEN IN POOREST CAMPS E.G. BOUREM
WHERE THEY WERE MADE INTO TENTS. IN MORE "AFFLUENT" CAMPS
E.G. GAO, TARPS USED TO COVER FOODSTUFFS. COMMENT. FACT
THAT TARPS WERE VIEWED BY GOM AS SECOND RATE MAY EXPLAIN
WHY ALL WERE DISTRIBUTED TO REFUGEES AS INTENDED.

B. EMBASSY FACING DILEMMA RE ADDITIONAL TARP NEED
FOR MALI (PER PARA 2C, REF A). DO NOT NEED MORE TARPS LIKE
THOSE SHIPPED SEPT-OCT 1973 SINCE GOM VIEWED QUALITY
ON SAME LEVEL AS NATIVE MATERIALS. ON OTHER HAND, REAL
POSSIBILITY HIGH QUALITY TARPS WOULD BE KEPT BY GOM
FOR OWN PURPOSES AND NOT DISTRIBUTED TO REFUGEES.

C. THINK BEST BET IS FREE FUNDS HELD IN ABEYANCE (PER
REF C) TO FINANCE COST TARPULINS AND HOPE LICROSS CAN
DELIVER THE GOODS TO THE VI REGION CAMPS. BELIEVE
LICROSS IDEA TO TRUCK CONSIGNMENT RE PARA 2C, REF A
VIA ALGERIA TO TIMBUKTU AND THUS AVOID CENTRAL GOVERN-
MENT DISTRIBUTION IN BAMAKO IS PARTIAL SOLUTION TO PROBLEM
OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN SO FAR AS BLANKETS HAVE BETTER
CHANCE OF ARRIVING IN REGION VI WHERE NEED IS GREATEST.
HOWEVER, WHILE ADDITIONAL TARPS ARE USEFUL, THEY ARE
NOT ESSENTIAL SINCE REFUGEES ABLE TO MAKE SERVICEABLE
RNHELTERS FROM LOCAL MATERIALS. AFTER CURRENT LICROSS
GRANT PROJECT (PER REF A) COMPLETED, BELIEVE ITS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS EFFORTS BETTER CHanneled
BY SUPPLYING VI REGION WITH NON-GRAIN FOODSTUFFS (E.G.
POWDERED MILK, CSM) AND MEDICINES WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL.
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Message Attributes

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